

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows, the amendments being shown by brackets and underlining in the attached appendix.

1. (Amended) A method of controlling a seed disease comprising the steps of:

sterilizing seeds by at least one of a physical technique and a chemical technique; and

treating the thus sterilized seeds by application of an effective microorganism which is antagonistic against a pathogen of a seed borne disease.